

## **Howard H. Knight**

**Address:** 3443 Baldwin Rd  
Stevensville, MT 59870

**Phone:** 406-531-2589

**Email:** [howard.knight@montana.com](mailto:howard.knight@montana.com)

**Web Site:** [www.rockingkcustomleather.com](http://www.rockingkcustomleather.com)

**Medium:** leather

### **About the Artist:**

Stevensville leather artist Howard Knight grew up on a northern Idaho ranch where his parents raised and trained Thoroughbred race horses. When he was eight years old, his leather 4-H project was the start of a life-long passion. Leather carving first became an ever-present hobby while he worked as an electrician. However, after a life-changing accident, Howard picked up his swivel knife and for the past twelve years has not put it down.

Knight was mentored by master leather carvers like Chuck Smith and Ray Pohja, considered one of the greatest leather artists of all time. Knight learned the "Sheridan Style" while studying with Jim Jackson of King Saddlery, saddlemaker Clinton Fay, and saddlemaker Don Butler. He has learned design, layout and stitching from experts at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and the Autry National Center in Los Angeles.

### **About the Art:**

Knight specializes in filigree work in the class Western Floral style and has collaborated with a range of artists, including bootmaker Lisa Sorrell, clothing designer Paul Hausvick of Boucher Leather in Santa Fe, silversmith Rob Schaezlein III, bronze sculptor Rip Caswell, jewelry designer Doug Magnus, and Axel's of Vail, CO. He has created custom boots that have taken over 800 hours of hand tooling, including one pair (at \$106,000) that has become known as the most expensive pair of boots made.

Knight spends over forty hours a week tooling and working leather in his shop in western Montana but gladly takes the time to pass on the tradition of leather craft to the next generation of 4-H leatherworkers. In fact, he has taught leatherwork to approximately 25 4-H members over the past six years. He has mentored Ralph Harmon, who now owns Ralph Harmon Custom Leather in Sebastopol, CA. Knight gives demonstrations during the shows he attends (like the Harley-Davidson rally in Milwaukee, WI,) and takes time to teach each potential customer about the quality, precision, and skill that go into each of his one-of-a-kind pieces.

**Photography by:** Marti deAlva and Chris Autio